

Meeting Minutes

Joint meeting of the Child Care Services Advisory Committee and Early Childhood Services Advisory Board

Thursday, May 21, 2026
10:00 am to 4:00 pm CT

Call to order

Senator Davison called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Roll call

Child Care Services Advisory Committee

Present: Representative Macy Bolinske, Senator Todd Beard, Senator Kyle Davison, Debra Beard, Keely Ihry, Verla Jung, Kari Kapp, Lorrie Thoemke and Kaila Wentz

Absent: Representative Brandy Pyle and Kenzi Brown

Early Childhood Services Advisory Board

Present: Rhoda Elmi, Catherine Heyd, Kirsten Hopp and Tania Zerr

Absent: Ashlynn Gafford, Linda Schroeder and Shelby Short

Report from subcommittee on staff qualifications and ratio

The subcommittee met in April and comprised of representation from both the Child Care Services Advisory Committee and Early Childhood Services Advisory Board. The subcommittee discussed potential updates to early childhood rules as they pertain to licensing qualifications and ratio requirements to improve clarity, consistency and workforce accessibility.

Other business

The committee engaged in discussion regarding the subcommittee's report and offered additional comments.

Lunch break

11:55 am - 12:45 pm

Other business (continued)

The committee continued discussing age groups and ratios.

The committee supports adding 12-year-olds to the proposed program type 3 (facility-based programs), allowing childcare options for families of children through age 12.

Committee work – review and finalize recommendations

Kay Larson presented a draft of the final report; followed by committee discussion and recommendations.

Dissolve Child Care Services Advisory Committee

Senator Davison and Kay Larson both thanked the members for their expertise and time they have given to the licensing study.

The final report will be submitted to legislative management by the end of May 2026, after which the committee will dissolve.

Senator Davison adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.